



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Virginia Department of Housing
and Community Development

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Virginia Main Street celebrates Milestone Achievement Awards

- Representatives from 19 communities celebrate investment in Virginia's downtowns -

Richmond, Va. – Today more than 80 representatives from 19 communities across the state came together to celebrate the economic and community development taking place in Virginia's downtowns. The Virginia Main Street (VMS) Milestone Achievement Awards ceremony celebrated achievements in volunteerism and private investments in Virginia's designated VMS localities.

Deputy Secretary of Commerce and Trade David Smith and Cate Magennis Wyatt, president of The Journey Through Hallowed Ground, joined Bill Shelton, director of the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and representatives of the Virginia Main Street program at the event held at the Jefferson Hotel.



“The revitalization of Virginia's downtown areas through the Virginia Main Street program and the hard work and dedication of local staff and volunteers is a key component of Virginia's overall economic growth and strength,” said David Smith.

The milestone awards recognize designated Main Street communities for excellence in two categories; amount of private investment dollars and number of volunteer hours contributed toward improving downtowns.

The following localities received awards for volunteerism:

- Destination Downtown South Boston – 5,000 hours
- Waynesboro Downtown Development, Inc. – 10,000 hours

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- Culpeper renaissance, Inc. – *15,000 hours*
- Martinsville Uptown Revitalization Association – *20,000 hours*
- Winchester Old Town Development Board – *20,000 hours*
- Downtown Franklin Association – *25,000 hours*
- Harrisonburg Downtown Renaissance – *25,000 hours*
- Historic Manassas, Inc. – *25,000 hours*
- Bedford Main Street, Inc. – *35,000 hours*
- Lynch’s Landing, Inc. – *55,000 hours*

The following localities received awards for private investment:

- Destination Downtown South Boston and the Town of South Boston - *\$5 million*
- Harrisonburg Downtown Renaissance and the City of Harrisonburg - *\$10 million*
- Martinsville Uptown Revitalization Association and the City of Martinsville - *\$10 million*
- Historic Manassas, Inc. and the City of Manassas - *\$35 million*
- Winchester Old Town Development Board and the City of Winchester - *\$40 million*
- Staunton downtown Development Association and the City of Staunton - *\$45 million*
- Lynch’s Landing, Inc. and the City of Lynchburg - *\$55 million*

Bill Shelton, Director of the Department of Housing and Community Development took part in the awards presentation and praised the communities for their efforts to improve their downtowns.

“The Virginia Main Street program is designed to help localities reverse economic and physical decline in downtown and neighborhood business districts, and the award recipients here today exemplify the best of those efforts in Virginia,” said Shelton.

Virginia Main Street uses the National Main Street model to help communities revitalize their downtowns, focusing on their unique heritage and attributes. The program provides assistance and training to help communities increase the economic vitality of their downtown commercial districts, and develop strategies that create economic growth and pride in their downtown areas.

Currently there are 19 designated Virginia Main Street communities throughout Virginia. For more information about VMS, call (804) 371-7030 or visit the VMS Web page at: www.dhcd.virginia.gov/mainstreet.

The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is committed to creating safe, affordable, and prosperous communities to live, work and do business in Virginia. DHCD partners with Virginia’s communities to develop their economic potential, regulates Virginia’s building and fire codes, provides training and certification for building officials, and invests more than \$100 million each year into housing and community development projects throughout the state - the majority of which are designed to help low-to-moderate income citizens. By partnering with local governments, nonprofit groups, state and federal agencies, and others, DHCD is working to improve the quality of life for Virginians. Visit the DHCD Web site at: www.dhcd.virginia.gov.